

WILLIAM GURNEY

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

William Gurney was born in Bedfordshire, England, August 8, 1834, the son of John and Mary Bales Gurney. His mother died when he was ten years of age. He was then taken care of by a loving sister. At the age of fifteen he first heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and soon accepted the same and was baptized March 1, 1853, by Daniel Mathews.

He emigrated from England April 8, 1854, on the ship "Marshfield," landing at New Orleans May 28, 1854, and continuing his journey up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. There was much sickness among the Saints, which caused considerable delay, but he finally reached Salt Lake City October 22, 1854, where he remained for some time.

He came to Lehi in the spring of 1855. After remaining in Lehi about four years, he became acquainted with Miss Julia Jeans, whom he married, and to them were born eleven children to gladden their home.

He was a valiant worker in the cause of truth, at all times laboring in the Sabbath School from its earliest organization until the time of his death. He worked in connection with William Yates in the acting teachers' quorum for many years, and was its president at the time of his death; he was also one of the senior presidents of the Sixty-eighth quorum of seventies, where he gained the love and respect of his brethren.

He died March 25, 1905, after a long and useful life. He was the husband of three wives; and the father of nineteen children. He has in the year 1913, 67 living descendants: 11 children, 44 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; 8 children, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren having passed to the Great Beyond.

